

Newmarket News



April 2020

Dear Members,

This is **NOT** an Easter message. I think the Queen, the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury have done that perfectly adequately. This is just a message that I happen to be writing on Easter Sunday.

The weather is lovely – unusual for Easter – makes you wonder if some greater authority is determined to make our lives as awkward as possible. I.e., the one really lovely Easter is the one we are not allowed out! We are fortunate to live in generally rural areas where we can enjoy the weather to at least a limited extent. Again, isn't it typical that the one spring I have lots of time and inclination to plant flowers, there aren't any available.

As you are receiving this by email, I assume you are also keeping an eye on our Newmarket U3A website. Some of us have been doing things to provide some activities for those who would like them, and to keep in touch through articles, competitions and YouTube activities. I don't know how much use these options are getting but I hope they are of some value. Of course U3A is primarily about face-to-face contact and this is out of the question at the moment. We have adopted, shall we say, a light touch approach to alternative activities as we have no evidence that members are looking for activities or are desperately in need of them. If I have that all wrong do please let me know!

Our Facebook page is a lively place where a limited number of members are communicating on a wide variety of topics. It is not deep, philosophical discussion but a reflection of what people are doing and how they are 'improving the shining hour'. So far we are a page that is refreshingly free of gloomy predictions and complaints about what 'they' should be doing. I trust it will continue in that vein, indeed the administrators will step quickly and heavily on gloom and doom.

Fewer than a quarter of our members are currently signed up and I know that in general older people tend not to engage in social media. That is your choice of course but please may I reassure you that life will not end if you sign up to Facebook. It requires no financial details at all and only whatever you choose to tell it. Do give it a try, you might like it.

We have no idea when life might return to something like normal, indeed it might never be the same again, so I am making no predictions on behalf of Newmarket U3A. We certainly won't be rushing in 'where Angels, (or any other) fear to tread'. We shall not convene any meetings until we are assured that it is safe and responsible to do so. If we are released by the beginning of July we shall aim to hold our AGM at the end of July in its normal slot. Otherwise I think we are probably looking at a new year in September. (These are not Executive Committee views, just mine!). Meanwhile, the committee members are in touch regularly and are here for anyone needing any sort of help, support or maybe just company. All our contact details are published on the website and in our publicity so don't hesitate to use them if you need to.

Life is not easy is it? I keep thinking of things I want to do and then realising that I can't – very irritating. However, I think in general we are quite a stoical bunch and I am sure we shall make the best of this most difficult and distressing situation. So good luck to everyone as we go forward towards the summer.

Best wishes. Tim Young, Chairman

Newmarket News



April 2020

A few activities are however going on that we would like to draw members attention to:

Music Group:

Mike ('The Conductor') Jocelyn has put links to 4 Lockdown special videos onto the Music Appreciation Group of the Newmarket U3A website. These are YouTube videos which you can access directly by clicking onto the website links themselves but or per below:

Lockdown 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZCg8Vq6iqo>

Lockdown 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItLxKQnwzKM&feature=youtu.be>

Lockdown 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcMtyjHMdos&feature=youtu.be>

Lockdown 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9nOmAuY-20&feature=youtu.be>

Each video is approximately 5-6 minutes and well worth a look and Mike has done a fantastic job in getting them all up and running. I believe there may even be future Lockdown videos in the pipeline.

Realm Of Books:

Margaret ('The Librarian') Jocelyn has put a link in the Realm Of Books Group to the Covid-19 book group with interesting reviews of Kamila Shamsie's Home Fire and Burnt Shadows. The books and the reviews are well worth a read and you can access the reviews themselves again via the website or: <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/n/newmarket/docs/covid-19bookgroup.pdf>.

Camera Group Members:

You will hopefully have seen the challenge set by Barry ('Paparazzi') Coles for the May Competition. As we are all taking our daily 1 hour exercise hopefully there will be a fine set of entries to this. If you are unaware of it please email Barry for details

Newmarket News



April 2020

Poetry:

Finally, Niddy ('The Bard') Walpole has been sending in a fascinating weekly selection of poems from members. They all appear on the Facebook page too but here's the latest poem from Doreen King:

The Daffodil.

*'Sunshine peeped through my window today.
With golden trumpet, too bright to stay.
One year had passed since I last heard her song,
It's message clear, wait not too long,
Her touch but brief and all to soon gone.
So out to the garden I will hasten to go
To use my time wisely for I do not yet know
If she will come calling with next Winter's snow.*

If you have any of your own poems you'd like to send to Niddy she would be delighted to receive them.

In the meantime it only remains to reiterate please keep safe and well. As Tim mentioned, The Executive Committee remain a contact point if you need any help—our details are on the website.

The Executive Committee and the Group Co-Ordinators look forward to being able to restart as soon as possible and of course safe to do so. If you have any thoughts or ideas you would like to bring to our attention please email the Newmarket U3A Newsletter email (the address on the email that has this attached). We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes from all at The Newsletter Team.